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'I'd Marry Him Again'—Mrs. Motherwell

By Eve Edstrom
Staff Reporter

Mrs. Larry Lord Motherwell, wife of the convicted slayer of Pearl Putney, declared yesterday that "I would marry him all over again if I had the opportunity."

She shook her head in disbelief as she recalled hearing the news that a Downieville, Calif., jury found her husband guilty of the murder of a wealthy Washington widow.

"How could they believe that Larry is an evil man?" she asked. "His only fault is that he tried to help people. The only Larry Lord Motherwell I know is a wonderful husband and a father."

As proof of his devotion, "Jo" Motherwell showed a reporter a nine-page illustrated story which Motherwell sent to his daughter, Denise J. Motherwell, for her second birthday Jan. 30.

Written on yellow lined legal paper while Motherwell was awaiting trial, the original story by Motherwell tells about two bears, "Ruffy and Huffy," who attended Denise's birthday party and ate so much they "had to hold their tummies."

Each page of the story, describing the lives of the bears in their wooded home, is liberally illustrated with Mother-

well's pictures of bears at play. His story ends with the warning that sometimes bears play so rough that little girls should not play with them.

"Denise can't wait for her Daddy to come home," Mrs. Motherwell said. "Each night she prays and says 'Dear God please bring my Daddy home safe.' I just know that the appeal in this case will be successful and that Larry will come walking into our home like he used to do."

The Motherwells live with Mrs. Motherwell's 75-year-old mother at 1782 Lyman place ne.

"I keep busy doing housework, caring for Denise and writing to Larry," she said. "We write to each other every day. He never wrote about the trial, just about the weather or the people he met in jail or the books he has read like 'The Day Christ Died'—he liked that a lot."

Despite some of the testimony during the Motherwell trial, Mrs. Motherwell said her faith in her husband is "unshaken." For example, she noted that during the trial one of her former co-workers, Marie Colley of Roanoke, Va., told how she took a cross-country trip with Motherwell.

"I befriended Marie," Mrs.

Motherwell said. "She was lonely and I invited her to go on picnics with Larry and me. I never knew she made the trip with Larry. But I don't blame him. She knew he was married and she knew we were happy

together. It was foolish of her to go off with a married man.

"Larry isn't an angel. I didn't ask when I married him if he were an angel. We all sin sometimes. We wouldn't be human beings if we didn't